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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

41505 7590 10/09/2008

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891

10/09/2008

WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2999 ARCH STREET EXAMINER
LEE, CHUN KUAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/09/2008

 APPELICATION NO.
 FILING DATE
 FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
 CONFRMATION NO.

 10/759,325
 01/16/2004
 John E. Palf
 MSFT-2912/305777.2
 8370

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION VIA A SIDE-BAND CHANNEL, AND USE OF SAME TO VERIFY POSITIONAL RELATIONSHIP

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	01/09/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 1SI. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: the Block 1 for any change of address)					Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.				
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PHILADELPHIA	A, PA 19104-2891								(Depositor's name)
									(Signature)
									(Date)
APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE			FIRST NAMED INVENTOR		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.		CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/759,325	01/16/2004			John E. Paff			MSI	T-29 I2/305777.2	8370
TITLE OF INVENTION RELATIONSHIP	: COMMUNICATION	OF IN	FORMATION VI	A A SIDE-BAND CI	IAN!	NEL, AND USE O	F SAN	IE TO VERIFY POSI	TIONAL
APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	IS	SUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE I	OUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE	S FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO		\$1510	\$300	\$0 \$1810		01/09/2009		
EXAM	INER		ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS	S				
LEE, CHU	LEE, CHUN KUAN		2181	710-062000					
"Fee Address" indi PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-0; Number is required. 3. ASSIGNEE NAME AT	ess an assignee is ident i in 37 CFR 3.II. Comp	" Indic ied. Us A TO I	ation form e of a Customer BE PRINTED ON		rnativ single or a t attor II be p or typ he pa	ely, elirm (having as a gent) and the name meys or agents. If i printed. e) ttent. If an assignussignment.	memb es of u no nam ee is id	er a 2o to e is 3	cument has been filed for
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/759,325	01/16/2004	John E. Paff	MSFT-2912/305777.2	8370	
41505	7590 10/09/2008		EXAMINER		
WOODCOCK V	WASHBURN LLP (M	LEE, CHUN KUAN			
CIRA CENTRE,			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
2929 ARCH STR PHILADEL PHIA	EET PA 19104-2891	2181 DATE MAILED: 10/09/200	_		

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 802 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 802 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)					
10/759,325	PAFF ET AL.					
Examiner	Art Unit					
Chun-Kuan Lee	2181					

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--All claims being allowable. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative

- of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.
- This communication is responsive to 07/24/2008.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,10,13,14,16-20,23 and 30-32.
- 3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) \square All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. __
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6.

DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. | Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08).
- Paper No./Mail Date 4. T Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
- Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date
- 7. X Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. X Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. ☐ Other .

/Alford W. Kindred/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2181

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DETAILED ACTION

I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENTS

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE APPLICANT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CORRECTIONS BY THE EXAMINER

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview
with Kenneth Eiferman, having Reg. No. 51,647, on 09/29/2008. Accordingly, since a
complete record of the interview has been incorporated in the instant examiner's
amendment, no separate interview summary form is included in the instant office letter
MPEP § 713.04.

CORRECTIONS MADE IN THE APPLICATION

The application has been amended as following:

IN THE CLAIMS:

The below described amendments to the claims are necessary to further clarify the claimed invention.

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NOTE: The claims amended by this examiner's amendment have been referred to by their original claim number

- Withdrawn claims 4-9, 15, 21-22 and 24-29 are all cancelled.
- 5. In claim 1, "A method of communicating between a first component and a second component located within a computer, the first component and second component being communicatively connected to each other through a bus that is accessible to components other than the first component and the second component, the method comprising:

establishing a light-based communication connection between the first component and the second component in order to ensure a defined positional relationship between the first and second components, wherein the light-based communication connection does not transmit information through the bus;

transmitting a datum between the first component and the second component using said light-based communication connection."

is replaced with -A method of communicating between a first component and a second component located <u>inside</u> a computer <u>enclosure</u>, the method comprising:

establishing a first communication connection between the first component and the second component inside the computer enclosure through a bus that is accessible to components other than the first component and the second component;

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establishing a light-based communication connection between the first component and the second component <u>inside the computer enclosure</u> in order to ensure a defined positional relationship between the first and second components, wherein the light-based communication connection does not transmit information through the bus <u>and is not accessible to the components other than the first component</u> and the second component; and

transmitting a datum between the first component and the second component using said light-based communication connection.-.

6. In claim 10, "A system comprising:

a first component;

a second component communicatively connected to said first component through a first communication channel that includes a bus, said bus being accessible to components other than said first component and said second component; and

a second communication channel that communicatively connects said first component with said second component using light-based communications, said second communication channel enabling the transmission of a datum in at least one direction between said first component and said second component without exposing said datum to said bus and ensuring a defined positional relationship between the first and second components,

wherein the first component comprises an electronic device mounted on a computer motherboard, and the second component comprises a plug-in board that plugs into an I/O slot located on the computer motherboard,

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and wherein the second light based communication channel enables transmission of said datum between said first component and said second component only when said second component is plugged into the I/O slot thereby establishing a fixed and defined positional orientation between the first and second components."

is replaced with -A system comprising:

a first component and a second component located inside a computer enclosure;

the second component communicatively connected to said first component through a first communication channel that includes a bus <u>inside the computer enclosure</u>, said bus being accessible to components other than said first component and said second component; and

a second communication channel that communicatively connects said first component with said second component using light-based communications inside the computer enclosure, said second communication channel enabling the transmission of a datum in at least one direction between said first component and said second component without exposing said datum to said bus and to the components other than the first component and the second component, and ensuring a defined positional relationship between the first and second components,

wherein the first component comprises an electronic device mounted on a computer motherboard, and the second component comprises a plug-in board that plugs into an I/O slot located on the computer motherboard,

and wherein the second light based communication channel enables transmission of said datum between said first component and said second component

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only when said second component is plugged into the I/O slot thereby establishing a defined positional orientation between the first and second components.-.

- In claim 16, in line 3, "... to establish the respective identities and ..." is replaced with -... to establish respective identities and ...-.
- 8. In claim 17, "A computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer-executable instructions to perform a method of verifying that a first component is within a first positional relationship to a second component, the first component and the second component being communicatively connected to each other by a bus that is accessible to sources remote from the first component and the second component, the first and second components located within a computer, the method comprising:

sending a first datum from the first component to the second component; receiving a second datum at the first component from the second component, the second datum being communicated from the second component to the first component through a light-based secondary communication channel and without use of the bus;

determining that the second component satisfies the first position relationship based on receipt of the second datum."

Is replaced with -A computer-readable storage medium encoded with computerexecutable instructions to perform a method of verifying that a first component is within
a first positional relationship to a second component, the first and second components
located inside a computer enclosure, the method comprising:

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establishing a primary communication channel between the first component and the second component inside the computer enclosure through a bus that is accessible to components other than the first component and the second component;

sending a first datum from the first component to the second component;

receiving a second datum at the first component from the second component, the second datum being communicated from the second component to the first component through a light-based secondary communication channel <u>inside the computer enclosure</u> and without use of the bus, <u>wherein the second datum is not accessible to components</u> other than the first component and the second component:

determining that the second component satisfies the first position relationship based on receipt of the second datum.-.

II. <u>DISTINGUISHING FEATURES RECITED IN THE CLAIMS</u> ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

9. Claims 1-3, 10, 13-14, 16-20, 23 and 30-32 are allowed.

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, See MPEP 1302.14:

10. The primary reasons for allowance of claim 1 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion in the claim that there are "A method of communicating."

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between a first component and a second component located inside a computer enclosure, the method comprising:

establishing a first communication connection between the first

component and the second component inside the computer enclosure through a

bus that is accessible to components other than the first component and the

second component;

establishing a light-based communication connection between the first
component and the second component inside the computer enclosure in order to
ensure a defined positional relationship between the first and second
components, wherein the light-based communication connection does not
transmit information through the bus and is not accessible to the components
other than the first component and the second component; and

transmitting a datum between the first component and the second component using said light-based communication connection." The prior art of record including the disclosures of Hocker et al. (US Patent 5,930,368) and Elliott et al. (US Pub.: 2004/0184615) neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above recited combination. Because claims 2-3 and 30 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, these claims are considered allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

11. The primary reasons for allowance of claim 10 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion in the claim that there are "A system comprising:

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a first component and a second component located inside a computer enclosure;

the second component communicatively connected to said first component
through a first communication channel that includes a bus inside the computer
enclosure, said bus being accessible to components other than said first
component and said second component; and

a second communication channel that communicatively connects said first component with said second component using light-based communications inside the computer enclosure, said second communication channel enabling the transmission of a datum in at least one direction between said first component and said second component without exposing said datum to said bus and to the components other than the first component and the second component, and ensuring a defined positional relationship between the first and second components.

wherein the first component comprises an electronic device mounted on a computer motherboard, and the second component comprises a plug-in board that plugs into an I/O slot located on the computer motherboard.

and wherein the second light based communication channel enables
transmission of said datum between said first component and said second
component only when said second component is plugged into the I/O slot
thereby establishing a defined positional orientation between the first and second
components. The prior art of record including the disclosures of Hocker et al. (US

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Patent 5,930,368) and Elliott et al. (US Pub.: 2004/0184615) neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above recited combination. Because claims 13-14, 16 and 31 depend directly or indirectly on claim 10, these claims are considered allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

12. The primary reasons for allowance of claim 17 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion in the claim that there are "A computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer-executable instructions to perform a method of verifying that a first component is within a first positional relationship to a second component, the first and second components located inside a computer enclosure, the method comprising:

establishing a primary communication channel between the first

component and the second component inside the computer enclosure through a

bus that is accessible to components other than the first component and the

second component;

sending a first datum from the first component to the second component;
receiving a second datum at the first component from the second
component, the second datum being communicated from the second component
to the first component through a light-based secondary communication channel
inside the computer enclosure and without use of the bus, wherein the second
datum is not accessible to components other than the first component and the
second component;

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determining that the second component satisfies the first position
relationship based on receipt of the second datum" The prior art of record including
the disclosures of Hocker et al. (US Patent 5,930,368) and Elliott et al. (US Pub.:
2004/0184615) neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above recited combination.
Because claims 18-20, 23 and 32 depend directly on claim 17, these claims are
considered allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

13. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-0671. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM to 5PM.

IMPORTANT NOTE

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alford Kindred can be reached on (571) 272-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C.K.L./

October 06, 2008

Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee Examiner Art Unit 2181

/Alford W. Kindred/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2181